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it receives the River Loomi (of Rebmann), and at its west end sends out a river which, after joining the Jagga river, flows south through the plain lying between the Ugono and Anuisha ranges to the river of Pangani. Between the Kilimanjaro and Anusha ranges is a small watershed, which sends the rivers of Western Madjani to the west.

“Mr. Rebmann’s map and description, as given in the first volume of the ‘Missionary Intelligencer,’ give a very fair idea of the country, and, considering he had no instruments, his map is very accurate.”

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2. *Ascent of the Ogun, or Abbeokuta River.* By Captain RICHARD BURTON, F.R.G.S., H. M. Consul at Fernando Po, with Captain BEDINGFIELD, R.N., F.R.G.S., and Dr. EALES, R.N.

CAPTAIN BURTON’S characteristic letter will be found printed at length at p. 64. It is therefore unnecessary to do more here than shortly allude to it. He visited Abbeokuta; and his remarks show that, while impressed with the cotton-producing powers of the soil, he takes a less favourable view than is usual, of the civilized progress to which the inhabitants have actually attained. He points out that the new colony of Lagos is deficient in a sanatorium, which should be sought in the mountainous country of the Cameroons. A minute survey of the River Ogun, by himself and Captain Bedingfield, accompanies the letter.

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3. *Journal of the Proceedings of H. M. S. ‘Bloodhound’ up the River Volta, West Coast of Africa, under Commander DOLBEN, R.N., F.R.G.S.*

THE author, conveying his Excellency the Governor of Cape Coast Castle, steamed to the mouth of the Volta, a river near Lagos, with a view of ascending it,—a feat that had never before been accomplished by white men. A rapid survey of the bar proved it was not that impassable barrier it had always been reputed, and that its features had become exceedingly different from those described in the sailing directory. An expedition of four well-armed boats, manned by thirty-nine men, then proceeded to enter the river. They crossed the bar without difficulty on October 28th, 1861, in 11 feet water. The *Bloodhound* herself could have been taken across it.

Partly sailing and partly rowing, the expedition ascended the river for 120 miles without difficulty or molestation, when their voyage was brought to an abrupt close by rapids. Though impracticable to ship’s boats, the rapids are not absolutely impassable, for the small strong native canoes can be forced through them to

Pong, a town which is situated at their head, 5 miles above the furthest point reached by the expedition. Above Pong the Volta is again navigable. Its stream was considerable. Immediately below the rapids it had a depth of 10 feet right across from bank to bank and a width of three-quarters of a mile. The natives were a fine race of men. The climate appeared healthy; for none of the party suffered during the five days they were in the river, notwithstanding exposure and severe work. The principal products were cotton, palm-oil, Indian-corn, and cassava. The water of the river was palatable, and fish abundant.

The CHAIRMAN said the first paper which had been read had reference to one of those important geographical problems which they must all rejoice to learn had been solved. It was not indeed that elaborate account, accompanied by a map, which they hoped to have communicated to them by the authority of the leader of the expedition, the Baron von der Decken, but it was a private letter from his associate, the geologist Mr. Thornton. The letter was nevertheless so ably written, and treated of such exceedingly interesting topics, that it was felt best to submit it to the Society without further delay. There was not now any doubt in the world that Kilimanjaro was really and truly a snow-capped mountain, and that its height, if not 20,000 feet, was something very nigh to it. He regretted that Sir R. Murchison was unable to be present, for he would have done justice to the important geological facts communicated by Mr. Thornton. He (the Chairman) felt no doubt that the information now received on the physical structure of the district of Kilimanjaro would materially influence our speculations on the position of the eastern affluents of the White Nile.

MAJOR-GEN. SIR HENRY RAWLINSON, K.C.B., said it was most satisfactory to have the problem of Kilimanjaro at last solved. They must remember that for a long period it had been a question of doubt amongst geographers whether the mountain really existed at all, and, if it did, whether it was of the height it was stated to be. For a long time it was supposed that the white top that was seen was simply quartz or dolomite which glittered in the sun, and was mistaken for snow. However the evidence now received fully verified the statement of Mr. Rebmann; for to him belonged—and he (Sir Henry Rawlinson) hoped would be attributed, without any sort of jealousy on the part of England—the honours of that discovery. The note he had in his hand was from Lieut.-Col. Pelly, who had succeeded Col. Rigby as the agent of the British Government at Zanzibar. He was a gentleman of considerable geographical experience (having recently performed a very interesting journey from Teheran through Afghanistan to India), and was anxious to further as far as he could, both officially and privately, the exploration of central Africa. Sir H. Rawlinson then proceeded to read the following communication:—

“MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

Zanzibar, 23 Nov., 1861.

“I arrived here on the 16th ult., having coasted along the African shore from the Mozambique to Zanzibar, touching at Iboo, and the other ports *en route*.

“Since arrival here I have been in the *Ariel* up to the equator, touching at Mombas and Lamoo. The country is finer, and the climate better than I had expected to find them.

“Baron von der Decken, just returned from the mountain of Kilimanjaro, dined with me last evening. He is much pleased with his African excursion. Kilimanjaro has perpetual snow on it, though close to the line; and he estimates its height by triangulation at 20,000 feet.

"I am becoming much interested in the line of the Ozi River, and I cannot help fancying that explorations taken along it to the ranges on its n.w. would be the most worth of all, and might also discover the real sources of the Nile."

COL. SYKES said they really owed the solution of the problem to which reference had been made, to Baron von der Decken, who, out of his own means and his love of research, had undertaken to travel in Africa. The Baron's original object was not the discovery of which they now heard, but an expedition in another part of Eastern Africa, whence he was driven back under circumstances of considerable personal danger; but, nothing daunted, he renewed his explorations, and this time in the direction of Kilimanjaro. The existence of that mountain had been pooh-poohed in England, where it was looked upon as a myth. It was said by some that the supposed snow was quartz, and by others that it was a thing *in nubibus*; but they now found that the snow-capped mountain was a real fact. He was very glad that the problem had been solved by one who undertook the research from his own resources; the more so as he had taken a personal interest in the discoveries of Krapf and Rebmann, the German missionaries, and had brought them to the notice of the Society, in his paper upon Zanzibar. He congratulated the Baron heartily upon his success, and desired to render unmitigated homage to the zeal of a foreigner.

MR. GALTON would add a few words supplementary to the remarks of Col. Sykes. The Baron von der Decken visited England for a few days previous to sailing to Africa; but it was at a time of the year when there were no evening meetings of the Society, and consequently few of its members had the opportunity of making his acquaintance. Baron von der Decken was a Hanoverian gentleman of rank, who had been an ardent Algerian sportsman-traveller; but having scientific tastes, and becoming desirous of a wider field of travel, selected the east coast of Africa as the place of his future explorations. The Baron had hoped that Dr. Röscher, who was then exploring those districts, would have associated himself with him; but learnt, on his arrival at Zanzibar, that Röscher had been murdered near the Nyassa. Baron von der Decken then followed his steps, to secure his papers, but was ultimately driven back by the hostility of the natives. Subsequently, on his return to Zanzibar, he fell in with Mr. Thornton, who had originally been attached as geologist to Dr. Livingstone's expedition, but had latterly thrown up his appointment, and he induced Mr. Thornton to accompany him. He (Mr. Galton) was glad to believe that as this was not the first expedition of Baron von der Decken, so it would not be his last; for Dr. Barth, with whom the Baron was in regular communication, had been asked to write to England to procure a portable boat, by which an exploration might be carried on of the lakes mentioned in Mr. Thornton's paper.

It was not to be thought that Kilimanjaro was the sole object of interest in that portion of Africa. Even as a mountain Kilimanjaro was by no means, of necessity, the most important, although it was the one of which most had been heard. Mr. Thornton mentioned no less than five other mountains that he had seen, ranging between 17,000 and 18,000 feet, and his views did not extend to either Kenia or Doengo Engai.

In reference to the letter read by Sir H. Rawlinson on the Ozi River, he might say that when he himself was exploring Africa eleven years ago, he had an English sailor-boy in his service, who had been one of the crew of a small trading schooner which had ascended the Ozi for twenty-five days. The boy had been greatly impressed by the size of the river, and, making allowance for the inaccurate and exaggerated recollections of non-educated persons who did not test their estimates of size by measurement, or at least by considerate examination, he had carried away a strong belief in the importance of that river.

The CHAIRMAN then invited discussion on the second and third papers.

After a few remarks by MR. TAYLOR, Consul at Abbeokuta, COMMANDER STRICKLAND, R.N., described the natives of Abbeokuta, whom he had seen at Sierra Leone, on their own coast, and in the Brazils, stating that they exhibited extraordinary aptitude for trade. They were, in fact, called the Jews of Africa. Many of them had been taken as slaves, and when they were landed at Sierra Leone they were given a mere subsistence for six months, and then were left to shift for themselves; but after a few years spent in cultivating the soil and selling the produce, many of these Abbeokutans improved their position, and at last they so prospered as to have small shops and to rank among the chief people engaged in the retail trade of the colony. Not a few of them had gone so far as to establish commercial relations with England, importing English goods for sale to the Mahommedan traders who came from the interior. He believed that Abbeokuta afforded an excellent field for promoting civilization amongst the Africans. In the Brazils they formed a separate community of free blacks.

In reply to questions from MR. CRAWFORD,

CONSUL TAYLOR said he could not state that he had any great hopes that they could at this moment procure a large supply of cotton from Africa; but he believed the natives of Africa had every capacity and facility for providing an increased supply. In the case of palm-oil there had been a very large addition to the quantity exported, and he did not see why the produce of cotton should not also be increased.

COMMANDER STRICKLAND, R.N., thought now they had taken possession of Lagos, they should proclaim peace. If they wanted cotton they must stop all war. If they declared in Lagos their intention to punish those who made war, he believed they would secure peace, and would soon have abundant cotton from that country. He earnestly urged the duty of the white nations to give peace to these black races whom they had taught to sell each other into bondage, and whose original state of civilization they had been the cause of destroying. He quoted, from the journals of early voyagers, descriptions of the flourishing state of this part of Africa before the slave hunts for foreign exportation were got up through the white man's influence.

The meeting was then adjourned to Monday, February 10th.

Sixth Meeting, February 10th, 1862.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, VICE-PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Dr. F. L. G. Gunn; Dr. S. Day Goss, M.D.; Capt. Edward Whitby; Charles Buxton, M.P.; Thomas Brookes; James Hall; Robert Hanbury, M.P.; John Jerdein; James Levick; William Marshall; Robert Deane Parker; and Arthur Roberts, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—The following were among the accessions to the Library and Map-rooms since the former meeting:—‘Bombay Magnetical and Meteorological Observations for 1859;’ Waugh’s ‘Instructions for Topographical Surveying;’ Colton’s Map of the United States; Transactions of the Pesth Academy of Sciences, &c.

EXHIBITIONS.—Geological Specimens from Charles Harper’s and the Dempsters’ Exploring Expedition to the East of York, West Australia; and some “Nardoo” seeds, taken from the patch on

which Burke died, at Cooper's Creek; as also a specimen of the Nardoo plant, were exhibited.

The Papers read were—

1. *Despatch from His Excellency* SIR HENRY BARCLAY, Governor of Victoria, on the Expedition which, under the late MR. R. O'HARA BURKE and MR. W. J. WILLS, with MESSRS. GREY and KING, succeeded in crossing the Australian Continent from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria.*

[Communicated by His Grace the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.]

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2. *Journals of the Expedition, with the Astronomical Observations of* MR. W. J. WILLS.

[Communicated by GOVERNOR BARCLAY to SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON.]

THE sad intelligence reached Melbourne on the 2nd of November, that Messrs. Burke and Wills, the leaders of the Victoria Camel Expedition, had perished of starvation at Cooper's Creek, after having successfully accomplished the object of their mission by opening a road across the continent to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

On arriving at Cooper's Creek, they found the small dépôt they had left there had been abandoned the same morning, and that the large relief party they expected from the Darling had never arrived. One of the two men who travelled with them, alone survives: the journal and route-map have been saved. The geographical results of the expedition are as follows:—

The distance from Menindee on the Darling to Torowato Swamp, lat. $30^{\circ} 2'$, long. $142^{\circ} 36'$, was about 200 miles, and the road lay through a fine grazing country. There was no difficulty about water, as creeks or water-holes, many of them important ones, were found at distances never exceeding 20 miles.

From Torowato to Wright's Creek (lat. $28^{\circ} 48'$, long. $142^{\circ} 53'$) the road was good; thence to Cooper's Creek it was stony, but not impracticable. The feed on Cooper's Creek was satisfactory; but the flies, mosquitos, and rats which abounded there, made it a very disagreeable residence. Wills has no doubt but that Wright's Creek was the lower part of the Warrego River. Burke considered that the road from the Darling to Cooper's Creek ought to be established more to the westward than the line he followed.

Four excursions were made without success from the easterly part of Cooper's Creek, to discover a practicable route due northward, according to instructions. On one occasion Mr. Wills travelled

* The principal part of this despatch is printed in p. 68.